

MARKED-UP VERSION

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. -13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A supporting member for a limb stump[[s]], namely a liner, comprising:
a sleeve member further comprising at least an elastomeric material;
said elastomeric material being elastic and electrically insulating;
said sleeve member defining a cavity shaped for receiving a distal end of [[a]] said limb stump;
portions of said elastomeric material bounding said cavity for receiving said stump;
said sleeve member further comprising a surrounding layer; and
said surrounding layer composed of a conductive material.

15. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump having at least a distal end, namely a liner, comprising:
a sleeve member ~~having~~ defining a concave shape to bound at least a portion of said distal end of said body stump;
said sleeve member being at least partially an elastic and an electrically insulating material;
and
said sleeve member further comprises an electrically conductive layer bounding at least a portion of said stump and spaced from said stump by at least a portion of said elastic and electrically insulating material of said sleeve member.

16. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 15, wherein:

said electrically conductive layer is positioned externally to said sleeve member.

17. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 16, wherein:

said electrically conductive layer includes at least one of an electrically conductive elastomeric material, an electrically conductive textile material, an electrically conductive ceramic composite, an electrically conductive metallic material, and electrically conductive plastic material.

18. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 15, wherein:

said electrically conductive layer is a matrix of an electrically conductive material enclosed by an elastic material.

19. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 18, wherein:

said matrix is one of an ordered and a disordered assembly of thread members of an electrically conductive material.

20. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for forming a electrically conductive region between said stump and said electrically conductive layer.

21. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 20, wherein:

said means for forming a conductive region includes a liner cup member at a distal end of said liner.

22. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 20, wherein:

said conductive region is arranged proximate one of said distal end of said stump and a non-distal-end ~~region~~ of said stump within said liner.

23. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 15, further comprising:

a liner cup member at a distal end of said liner.

24. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 23, wherein:

said liner cup member is one of a cup member formed from an electrically conductive material and a cup member coated with an electrically conductive material, whereby said liner cup member is in an electric communication with said electrically conductive layer.

25. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 20 wherein:

a measured electrical resistance between a surface of said stump installed in said liner and said conductive region is less than about 10^5 ohms.

26. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 20, further comprising:

means for enabling a secure connection between said supporting sleeve and an external prosthesis shaft member.

27. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 20, further comprising:

said means for enabling a secure connection being one of an electrically conducting means and an electrically insulating means.

28. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for forming an electrically conductive region between said stump and one of said

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electrically conductive layer and a liner cup electrically connected to said electrically conductive layer and positioned proximate said distal end of said stump.

29. (Currently amended) A supporting sleeve for a body stump, namely a liner, comprising:

a sleeve member having a shape bounding ~~to-bound~~ at least a distal end of said stump;

said sleeve member being at least partially an elastic and an electrically insulating material;

said sleeve member further comprises an electrically conductive layer bounding at least a portion of said stump;

said electrically conductive layer spaced from ~~is not in direct contact with~~ said distal end of said stump by at least a portion of said elastic and said electrically insulating material; and

means for forming a electrically conductive region between said stump and said electrically conductive layer.